

BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET

Making connections between education and income

The word “occupation” describes a type of work with associated tasks, education and training, typical wages, work settings, and more. As you think about what you want to be when you grow up, it’s helpful to understand the connections between education level, occupation, and income.

Instructions

- 1 Match the occupations with the level of education they require.
- 2 Match the occupations with the median yearly salary they can earn.
- 3 Answer the reflection questions. You can do research using the “Occupation Finder,” a resource of the U.S. Labor Department’s Bureau of Labor Statistics at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/occupation-finder.htm>.

Matching activity 1: Level of education required for different occupations

Occupations

Accountant	Construction worker	Preschool teacher
Airline pilot	Dental hygienist	Receptionist
Bus driver	Electrician	School principal
Car mechanic	Hairdresser	Surgeon
Cashier	Lawyer	Veterinarian
Chef	Librarian	Waiter/waitress
Computer support specialist	Multimedia artist	
	Physician assistant	



Level of education completed	Years of education after high school	Occupations at this level
No high school diploma	0	
High school diploma	0	
Post-secondary school certification	A few weeks to two years	
Associate's degree	Two years	
Bachelor's degree	Four years	
Master's degree	Six years	
Doctoral degree	At least seven years	

Matching activity 2: Yearly salary for different occupations

The level of education you complete influences the type of occupation you can get, which may impact how much money you earn. To get an idea of what this looks like, match the median salary listed below with the occupations in the table.

Median salaries

\$108,610 \$21,780 \$208,000 \$53,470
 \$70,500 \$40,710 \$34,450

Occupation	Median yearly salary (Median means the middle of the salary range.)
Accountant	
Bus driver	
Car mechanic	
Computer support specialist	
Physician assistant	
Surgeon	
Waiter/waitress	

Reflection questions

1. What occupation (or career) are you interested in for your future?
2. What level of education does that occupation require? If you're unsure, you can research this at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/occupation-finder.htm>.
3. Why might this occupation be a good fit for you?